

integrating arts education in their student's daily routines. Unfortunately, budget cuts threaten the longevity of these programs. Studies have demonstrated that reading and math scores improve with participation in arts education classes. A U.S. Department of Justice study found that arts education reduced student delinquency in San Antonio by 13% and increased the communications skills of students in Atlanta by 57%. Test Results from the College Board have shown that college bound students involved in the arts and humanities have higher overall SAT scores than other students. I'm proud to have been part of the legislative effort to empower the Secretary of Education to fund arts education programs in our schools through the No Child Left Behind Education Act of 2003.

Beyond our borders, the WTO must stand firm against the piracy of our artists' intellectual property. We in Congress must strengthen our commitment and effort with our trading partners to end piracy. Theft of intellectual property has a significant economic effect on the United States. The recording industry, for example, reports a loss of \$286 million in sales with our trading partner, China. In addition, market access and investment barriers prevent the entertainment industry from serving markets overseas thus and increases demand for pirated U.S. entertainment products. The Congress and the United States Trade Representative need to work together to apply pressure to the governments of countries where piracy is rampant.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in paying tribute to Arts Advocacy Day.

HONORING CESAR CHAVEZ ON HIS 77TH BIRTHDAY

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 31, 2004

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Cesar Chavez on his birthday. I ask the members of the House to join us in paying our respects to a man who brought awareness of farm labor injustices to national light, and who made a path for all those who came after him.

Chavez's legacy continues to live on today. His influence can be seen in the legislation that comes to this very floor. Recently, Leader PELOSI and I have joined national civil rights leader John Lewis, in introducing H.R. 3809, the FAIRNESS Act, comprehensive civil rights legislation that will protect workers from discrimination and workplace abuse.

We also continue the fight to ensure that in today's world, the rights of workers are still protected. That is why those of us who work daily on the issues of fairness, justice and equity know that even though we have been fighting these battles for more than half a century, we have not won the war and discrimination still exists. That is why it is important to ensure our laws stay current with the times. We cannot allow loopholes to create a situation where it is legal to discriminate against segments of our population. Under the Fairness Act all workers—and that is a very important point—all workers may obtain relief for unfair labor practices.

As you know, Democrats in Congress have advocated on behalf of immigrants for years to

help them earn status as lawful permanent residents, secure a path towards citizenship, and pursue opportunities in higher education.

Mr. Speaker, we must keep in mind that immigrants make indispensable contributions to our economy. They compose an increasingly essential proportion of our workforce. Their tax payments help finance government programs, of which they are both users and beneficiaries. Making immigrants true stakeholders in our society means not only bringing them out from the shadows of the undocumented, but also providing them access to lawful permanent residency status. Ultimately, the value of immigrants to our society should not be valued just in dollar terms. Rather, we should measure the enrichment to our culture and the overall vitality immigrants bring to American society.

I remain committed to improving the lives of all immigrants in this country, and I will continue advocating for programs that offer immigrant workers meaningful access to permanent legal status and a clear path towards citizenship. Today we can still hear Mr. Chavez say his chant of encouragement, pride and dignity: "Sí, se puede!"—yes, it can be done.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for letting me address the House of Representatives today to honor Mr. Chavez on the occasion of what would have been his 77th birthday.

HONORING THE BIRTHDAY OF CESAR ESTRADA CHAVEZ

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 31, 2004

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak in honor of Cesar Chavez. Cesar Chavez was born on this day in 1927.

Cesar Chavez once said, "Real education should consist of drawing the goodness and the best out of our own students. What better books can there be than the book of humanity?" He believed that "the end of all education should surely be service to others." It is a belief that he practiced until his untimely death.

In Dallas, Texas where I serve, to honor his love for education, the city opened the Cesar Chavez Learning Center. The Center enrolls almost 900 students and maintains an attendance rate of 96.6 percent.

Mr. Chavez could have written his own book on humanity and service to others. He was willing to sacrifice his own life so that others could have a better life. He built a great union through persistence, hard work, faith, and non-violence.

Blending the nonviolent resistance of Gandhi with the organizational skills of his mentor, the social activist Saul Alinsky, Mr. Chavez captured worldwide attention in the 1960's. Leading an initially lonely battle to unionize the fields and the orchards of California, he issued a call to boycott grapes. It soon became the cause to celebrate.

Mr. Chavez, who was described by Robert F. Kennedy in 1968 as "one of the heroic figures of our time," was widely acknowledged to have done more to improve the lot of the migrant farm worker than anyone else.

Asked what had motivated his stubborn fight, he said, "For many years I was a farm worker, a migratory worker, and, well, person-

ally—and I'm being very frank—maybe it's just a matter of trying to even the score."

But he ultimately failed to realize his dream of forging a nationwide organization. In most of America, farm workers continue to toil for low wages, without job security. They are still vulnerable to exploitation.

Along with thousands of other families during the depression in the Southwest, Cesar Chavez's family fell on hard times. They sought a new life in California. They found it picking carrots, cotton and other crops in arid valleys, following the sun in search of the next harvest and the next migrants' camp.

Mr. Chavez never graduated from high school, and once counted 65 elementary schools he had attended "for a day, a week or a few months."

Beginning with the Industrial Workers of the World at the turn of the century, unions tried for decades to organize immigrant unskilled workers, first Chinese, then Japanese and later Filipinos and Mexican-Americans, on whom California growers depended.

But the field hands, their organizing drives vulnerable to the competition of other poor migrants seeking work, found themselves fighting not only powerful growers, but also the police and government officials.

By 1965 Mr. Chavez had organized 1,700 families and persuaded two growers to raise wages moderately. His fledgling union was too weak for a major strike. But 800 workers in a virtually moribund AFL-CIO group, the Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee, struck grape growers in Delano. Some of the members of his group demanded to join the strike.

That was the beginning of 5 years of La Huelga—"the strike"—in which the frail labor leader, who was 5 feet 6 inches tall, became familiar to people in much of the world as he battled the economic power of the farmers and corporations in the San Joaquin Valley.

A New York Times article stated, "He was shy and not an outstanding public speaker. But he showed humility that, with his shyness and small stature, piercing dark eyes and facial features that hinted at Indian ancestors, gave him an image as a David taking on the Goliaths of agriculture."

Mr. Chavez's style was monastic, almost religious. He said his life was dedicated only to bettering the lives of the exploited farm workers. He was a vegetarian, and his weekly salary of \$5 was a virtual vow of poverty. Articles about him often spoke of his "saintly" and even "messianic" qualities.

By 1968, Mr. Chavez had urged Americans not to buy table grapes produced in the San Joaquin Valley until growers agreed to union contracts. The boycott proved a huge success. A public opinion poll found that 17 million Americans had stopped buying grapes because of the boycott.

On April 29, 1993, Cesar Chavez was honored in death by those he led in life. He left this world better than he found it and for that we honor him today.

ATTACKS ON ETHNIC SERBS IN KOSOVO

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 31, 2004

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, the values of Western civilization are being tested in Kosovo